



## **RETENTION -- A PERSONAL DECISION TO RETURN**

The following email was sent to Master Chief Patton a few months ago:

"Subject: Lost Sailor

I am currently an active Reserve at CG Sta xxxx. I got out on the two year program to pursue a unique career opportunity. I have applied to come back into active duty and am currently awaiting word from headquarters.

I left the Coast Guard in October. I thought I would find happiness in the civilian sector. The job I am currently in pays very well and would be considered an excellent career opportunity. I make close to \$50k a year. My family and I live very comfortably within my job. Yet I do not have the same satisfaction I had every day I was in the CG. Some

people think I am crazy to give up the money and career advancement I could have. Money can be a powerful motivator. Yet I am eager to take a pay cut and come back into the CG because this is what I love. Money is nothing without satisfaction in your life.

The pride that I had in my job is immeasurable. You may be wondering why I am writing you and telling you this. I think it is because I feel I let the CG down when I left. My departure was felt very much at Sta xxxx. I want to come back and serve the CG until the day I have to retire. The crews I served with in the eight years I was in active duty

were some of the most knowledgeable and superb people I have ever met. I do not find this the same in the civilian world. I think this is mainly stems from the pride and devotion to duty that my shipmates have for the missions we performed.

The temporary absence I had from the CG has strengthened my devotion to the CG. I think for me it was just what I needed to show me the right course to be on. I look forward to the day that I can wear the uniform again on a daily basis. I thank the CG for giving me this opportunity to see what I was meant to do with my life. That is to

carry out the missions of the US Coast Guard with pride and perseverance. Thank you for your time. I know your job is a busy one. Semper Paratus"

**The grass is not always greener.....**

P.S. This "lost sailor" has subsequently returned to active duty.

Regards, FL Ames



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